

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17 are rejected. Claims 6 and 14 are indicated allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims and intervening claims. Claims 7, 8, 15, and 16 are indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base and intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable claims.

Claims 6 and 14 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Responsive to the rejection of claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention, applicants have amended claims 6 and 14 to replace the term "identifiers" in line 2 of both claims with the term "program identifiers." Applicants submit that the rejection has been overcome in light of this amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102 (e)

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4, 9-12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 200200264996 A1 ("Boyer"), applicants respectfully submit that Boyer does not anticipate these claims as discussed below.

Independent claim 1, for example, recites a method of linking terms in an electronic message to program information in an electronic program guide (EPG). The method comprises the steps of receiving an electronic message; comparing terms in the electronic message to terms in the program information of the EPG; and displaying

the electronic message so that any terms in the electronic message which have a match in said program information based on the step of comparing terms, are distinguishable from terms which have no such match.

By contrast, Boyer discloses a system for sending reminder e-mail messages to users when selected television programs are to be aired. See paragraph 0006. An example of ordering an e-mail reminder is to fill out a new reminders page 810 shown in FIG. 8. In addition to filling out a user information box 813, a how soon box 830, and a remind me box 824, the user must also enter the title of a television program in box 818. See paragraph 0055 on page 4.

If the user does not enter the exact title of the television program in the new reminders page 810, the data of program listing 220 may be scanned to find the program or programs that most closely match the program title indicated by the user. See paragraph 0056. If more than one match is found, a list of the program matches may be presented to the user and the user may choose the actual program desired and the title of the selected program is automatically entered in the box 818. See paragraph 0056.

Once the new reminders page 810 is submitted, the order is sent to a web server 20 in a program guide system shown in FIG. 1, and the web server 20 processes the order and sends out an e-mail reminder at appropriated time. See paragraphs 0057 and 0050. A typical e-mail reminder message is shown in FIG. 6, which includes the name of the television program that the user is being reminded of and a reminder message indicating "DON'T FORGET" along with information on when the television program is to be broadcasted. See paragraph 0051.

Thus, the new reminders page 810 shown in FIG. 8 is not an electronic message received by the user's multimedia system 28, 30, or 32 of FIG. 1. See paragraph 0050. As discussed above, the new reminders page 810 is simply used by a user's multimedia system to collect reminder order information, so that the system can send an electronic order message to the web server 20, requesting the web server 20 to send e-mail reminders at an appropriate time.

In fact, the e-mail reminder message shown in FIG. 6 should be interpreted as the electronic message received, as recited in claim 1. However, as discussed above, a user's multimedia system 28, 30, or 32 simply displays the reminder message. It does not compare terms in the reminder message to terms in program information of an EPG. Therefore, it also does not display the reminder message so that any terms in the reminder message which have a match in program information based on the comparison are distinguishable from terms that have no such match. As such, Boyer does not disclose or suggest the comparing step and the displaying step as recited in claim 1.

However, the Office Action interprets the new reminders page 810 shown in FIG. 8 as the received electronic message, the action of a user multimedia system finding programs that most closely match the text entered by a user as performing the comparing step, and the action of the multimedia system displaying only the most closely matched programs as performing the displaying step. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons discussed below.

First, as discussed above, the new reminders page 810 is not an electronic message received by a user's multimedia system 28, 30, or 32, and should not be

interpreted as the received electronic message, as recited in claim 1, because the new reminders page 810 is created by the multimedia system itself.

Furthermore, for the sake of argument, even if the new reminders page 810 is interpreted as the received electronic message, Boyer still does not disclose or suggest the comparing step and the displaying step, as alleged.

If we assume that the new reminders page 810 is the received electronic message, we must also assume that the text, representing a program title, entered by a user is also interpreted as part of the received electronic message. However, a user multimedia system 28, 30, or 32 in FIG. 1 compares only the entered text with the program information. It does not compare other terms in the new reminders page 810, such as "Enter," "Program", and "Title," to the program information. As such, Boyer does not disclose or suggest the step of comparing terms in an electronic message to terms in program information of an EPG, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, even assuming that the comparing step has been performed, Boyer still does not disclose or suggest the displaying step. For example, if a user enter a text string of "Sein," which, under this assumption, is part of the electronic message. The system would match this entered text to the program title of "Seinfeld" and display "Seinfeld" as the program title. However, the term "Sein" is not a match to the term "Seinfeld," as recited in the displaying step, because "Sein" and "Seinfeld" are two different terms. As such, Boyer does not disclose or suggest the step of displaying any terms in the electronic message which have a match in program information, as recited in claim 1.

Even if a user enters an exact term and the system only displays that term, the system still does not display terms that are not matched because there is either no

unmatched term in the case of the user entering an exact program title, or the term not matched is replaced by other terms in the case that the user does not enter an exact program title as discussed in the example above. As such, Boyer does not disclose or suggest the step of displaying terms in an electronic message, which do not have a match in program information, let alone the step of displaying matched terms, distinguishably from terms that do not have a match.

In light of the fact that Boyer does not disclose or suggest a method of linking terms in an electronic message to program information in an EPG, comprising the step of comparing terms in the electronic message to terms in program information of the EPG, and displaying the electronic message so that any terms in the electronic message which have a match in the program information are distinguishable from terms which have no such match, as recited in claim 1, applicants submit that claim 1, and dependent claims 2-4, are patentable over Boyer.

Furthermore, claim 2 recites that the method further includes the step of establishing an electronic link between at least one term in the electronic message and any program information which has a match for the at least one term. Applicants disagree that FIG. 8 and paragraph 0055 disclose this step, as alleged. An example of an electronic link is shown in FIG. 4 of the present application, where the selection of the matched terms "Inside World Politics" causes EPG 500 to be displayed with the entry "Inside World Politics" highlighted as shown in FIG. 5. See page 25, lines 5-9 of the present application. By contrast, selecting the program title entered in the new reminders page 810 of Boyer will cause no action because the entered program title is treated as plain text, so that it can be included in a reminder order message to be sent to the web server 20, as discussed above. No electronic link has been established

between the entered program title and an EPG. Since Boyer does not disclose or suggest that there is an electronic link established between a matched term and any program information, as recited in claim 2, applicants submit that claim 2, and dependent claims 3 and 4, are patentable over Boyer for this reason alone.

Furthermore, claim 3 recites that the step of establishing an electronic link is performed so that selection of the at least one term with a match effects implementation of a respective program which is defined by the program information having the match. Applicants disagree that selecting the program title in the new reminders page 810 effects any implementation, as alleged. As discussed above, the entered or selected program title is treated as plain text and selecting the plain text will not cause any action. In fact, in order to send the reminder message having the program title collected in the new reminders page 810, a user must select a submit box 840, rather than the entered program title 830, in the new reminders page 810. See paragraph 0058. As such, claim 3 is patentable for this reason alone.

Applicants submit that arguments made above with respect to claim 1 are also applicable to claim 9, and submit that claim 9, and dependent claims 10-12 and 17, are patentable over Boyer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Responsive to the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer in view of US 6,374,406 B2 ("Hirata"), applicants submit that these two claims are patentable over the two references, because Hirata fails to cure the defects of claims 1 and 9 from which claims 5 and 15 depend.

Hirata discloses a reception device that receives an electronic mail, extracts a control command in the electronic mail, and controls a prescribed electric appliance

dependently on the extracted control command. See col. 1, lines 49-55. However, nowhere does Hirata disclose or suggest the features of comparing terms in the electronic message to terms in program information of the EPG, and displaying the electronic message so that any terms in the electronic message which have a match in the program information are distinguishable from terms which have no such match, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

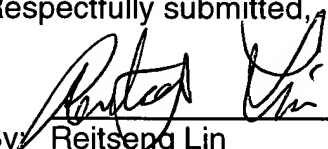
Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Fee

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


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